

AWANA FIJI NEWS

3rd March, 2015

Happy New Year & Bula Vinaka,

Our new Awana Year has begun and we look forward to what 2015 will bring. As we play our part in the Awana Family to reach our goal of Reaching 20 million children by 2020, we prayerfully seek the Lord's help, strength & provision in achieving this goal.

The year kicked off with our first Seedplanters training held in Suva from the 26th – 30th January, 2015. New churches have been trained and a few old clubs have been strengthened as a result of this.



Seedplanters Participants in Suva



Participants run a live club practice During the Seedplanters training.

On the 13th of February we conducted a 1 year Seedplanters Celebration in Labasa and were excited to hear of the growth in clubs and lives of children & whole families being changed in the Northern Division.



Participants at the 1 Year Celebrations in Labasa.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

On the 23rd of February our ministry team member, Maretina Idegunu & I travelled to the Solomon Islands where we conducted a 4-14 Forum in an area known as Gilbert Camp. Life in this area is not very easy, and we witnessed daily little girls (maybe 8 – 11 years old) carrying on their back bags filled with bottles of water which they walk 1 – 2 kilometers every day to fill for home use.



Little children carting water to their homes in the Solomon Islands.



Participants at the 4-14 Forum in Gilbert Camp, Solomon Islands

As I spoke with a Pastor, he shared how parents really need to know from the scriptures the importance of nurturing their children. Neglect is an issue in the Solomon Islands and we hope to return in May to run a 5 day Seedplanters training as a result of this 4-1 forum.



Participants listen intently as Maretina Idegunu shares from the Word.

After the 4-14 Forum, we then held a Seedplanters 1 year celebration at another area known as Kukum. There we heard of the struggles that current clubs faced after the flash floods that hit the Solomon Islands last year and also how one club has struggled because of development that had taken place in the area where there was previously a squatter settlement and most of the children there attended the Kukum Awana Club. Despite the struggles leaders are committed to re-opening clubs this month and to getting together to encourage one another and report on progress by the 27th March 2015.



1 Year Celebrations in Kukum, Solomon Islands.



Junior Colson receives his 1 Year Certificate From Awana Missionary, Talei Vaihola

There were some stories of praise where from the Island of Tulagi, parents had noticed the difference in their children who attended the Tulagi SSEC Awana Club, as a result parents & families now attend this church.



Young boys gather coconut fronds for a celebration in the Solomon Islands.

Please continue to pray for these lovely islands. The people do not have much at all, but are so gracious and hungry for teaching.



Solomon Island children gather around Aunty Marcos after the 4-14 Forum.

PRAYER POINTS:

- ❖ We praise & thank the Lord for all our ministry partners, those that support Awana Fiji both in prayer and in Finances.
- ❖ Pray for all our Awana Clubs that have re-started for the new year, as well as the new clubs that have started up. That leaders would remain committed to their calling and passionate in their service among the children both in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.
- ❖ Pray for future Seedplanters training in the Solomon Islands, as well as 3 month follow-up training & Basic Training in Fiji over the next quarter. That preparations would be done well so that the Fiji ministry team is able to carry out all that has been planned.
- ❖ Continue to pray for a much needed ministry vehicle. It has now become a necessity in order for us to be effective in carrying out the work required of us.
- ❖ Please pray for our Awana ministry team & their families, pray for wisdom for missionary Talei Vaihola in leading the team.

Thankyou once again for partnering with us to reach boys & girls in Fiji & the Solomon Islands. You are much appreciated.

Talei Vaihola
NATIONAL MISSIONARY